

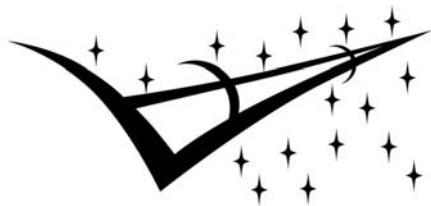
National Aeronautics and Space Administration

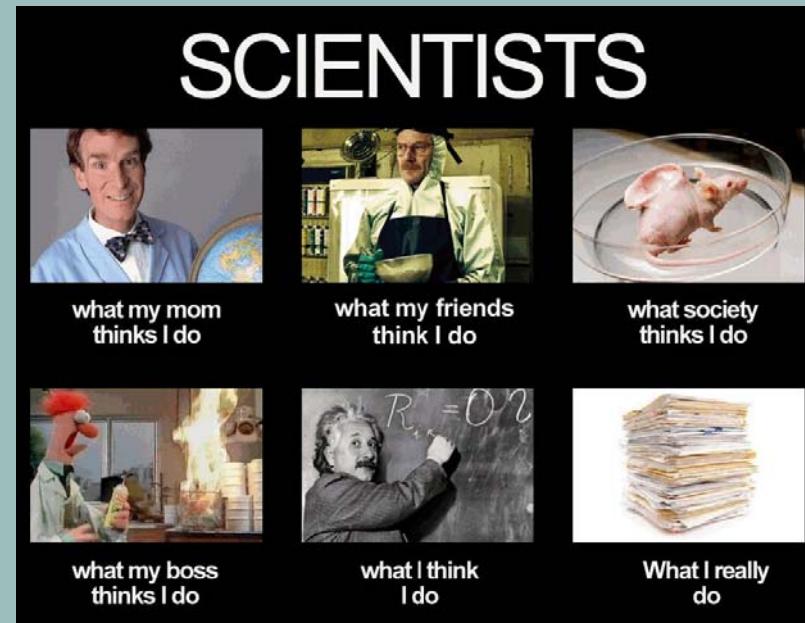


# JSC Exit Presentation

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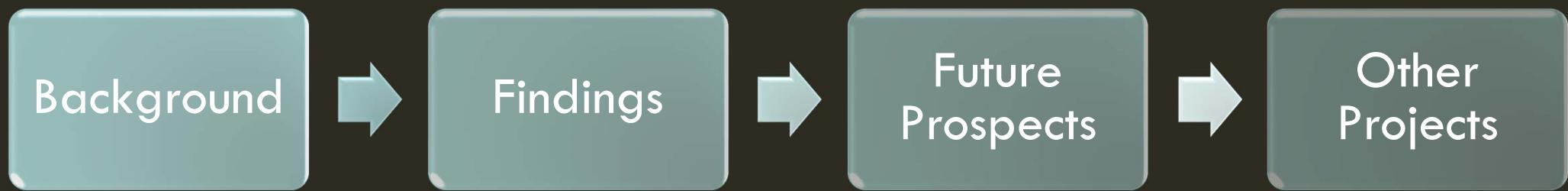
# EFFECTS OF GENETICS AND MUTATIONS ON ACQUIRED LONG QT SYNDROME

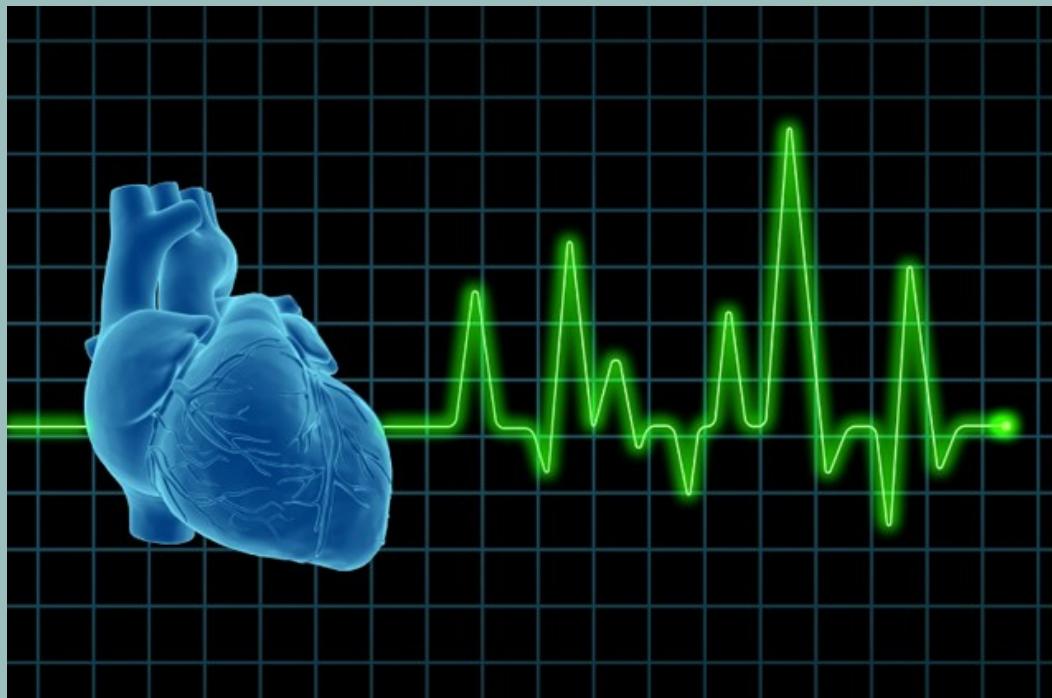
Rebecca McFadden  
Space Life Sciences Summer  
Research Institute  
2014 JSC Pharmacology

# ABOUT ME



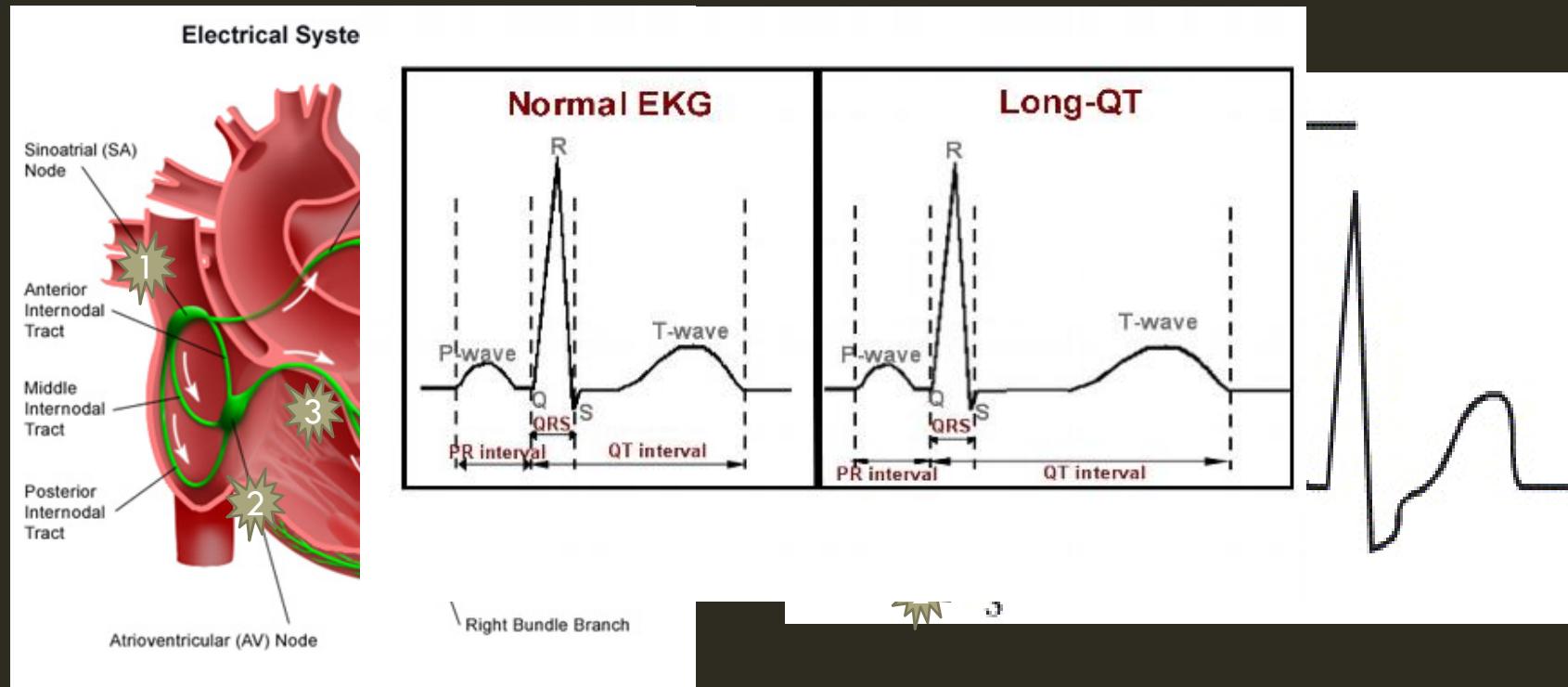
# OVERVIEW





# BACKGROUND

# WHAT IS LONG QT?



# WHAT'S THE HARM?

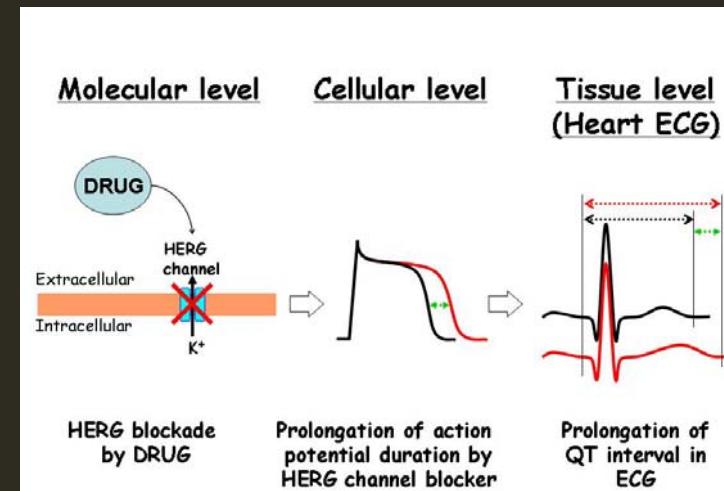
- ❖ LQTS is either inherited or acquired
  - ❖ Inherited occurs in 1/2,500 live births
    - ❖ Caused by channel gene defects
- ❖ Cannot be determined only by ECG
  - ❖ Diagnostic criteria useful, but not always accurate
- ❖ Causes 3000-4000 deaths annually in children and young adults in the US alone

	Points
<i>Electrocardiographic findings<sup>a</sup></i>	
QTc <sup>b</sup>	
>480 ms	3
460-470 ms	2
450 (male) ms	1
Torsades de pointes <sup>c</sup>	2
T-wave alternans	1
Notched T wave in 3 leads	1
Low heart rate for age <sup>d</sup>	0.5
<i>Clinical history</i>	
Syncope <sup>e</sup>	
With stress	2
Without stress	1
Congenital deafness	0.5
<i>Family history</i> <sup>e</sup>	
A. Family members with definite LQTS	1
B. Unexplained sudden cardiac death below age 30 amongst immediate family members	0.5

1993 LQTS diagnostic criteria (Schwartz, 2006).

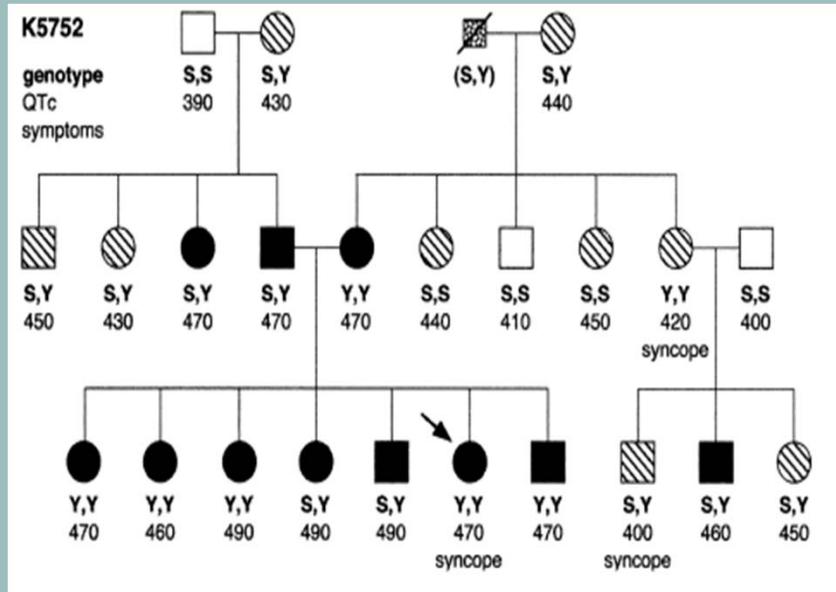
# ACQUIRED LQTS

- ❖ Caused by medications
  - ❖ Can lead to Torsade de Pointes, ventricular tachycardia, ventricular fibrillation, and arrhythmia
  - ❖ Antiarrhythmics, antidepressants, antipsychotics, and antiemetics
  - ❖ Associated with 90 noncardiovascular drugs
- ❖ Most common cause of relabeling/withdrawal of market drugs in last decade
  - ❖ 1990-2001: 21 withdrawn
- ❖ Unclear why diverse compounds block HERG channels
- ❖ 2005: FDA released a Guidance for Industry
  - ❖ Drugs produced before this date have not been tested



- ❖ Currently unpredictable
  - ❖ Occurs in 1-8% of patients receiving antiarrhythmic drugs (Yang, 2002)
- ❖ Risk factors include:
  - ❖ Female gender
  - ❖ Hypokalemia
  - ❖ Hypomagnesaemia
  - ❖ Bradycardia
  - ❖ High drug concentrations
  - ❖ Heart failure

But what about genetic/inherited predisposition?



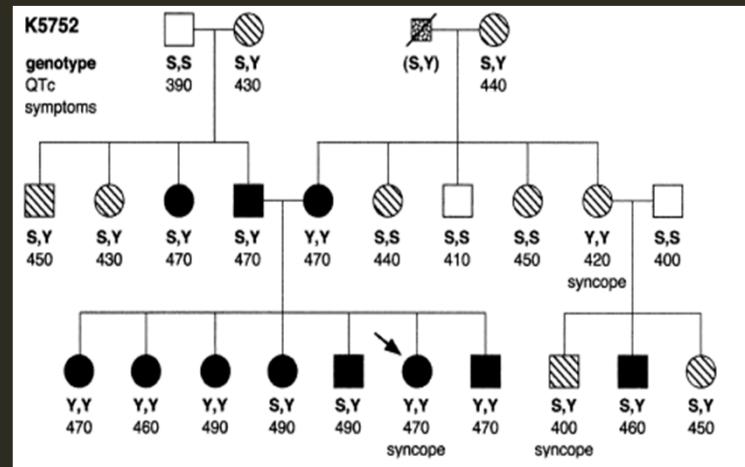
# FINDINGS

# SILENT MUTATIONS

- ❖ 9 genotyped probands without clinically affected family members entered the study
  - ❖ 46 family members examined; none affected by LQTS on ECG
- ❖ Molecule diagnosis revealed 15 family members were gene carriers
  - ❖ This was missed by ECG and the clinical scale
  - ❖ Possible to be a gene carrier without a prolonged interval
- ❖ 13 mutations have been identified
- ❖ These individuals are predisposed to the possible occurrence of drug-induced Torsade de Pointes

# SCN5A GENE

- ❖ Provides instructions for making sodium channels
- ❖ One patient exposed to cisapride
  - ❖ Had normal QT interval prior
  - ❖ Developed prolonged QT interval, severe bradycardia, and repetitive torsade de pointes
  - ❖ Return to normal 6 days after discontinuation
  - ❖ Due to a genetic mutation in a sodium channel
- ❖ Possesses a polymorphism more prevalent in aLQTS
  - ❖ 23 family members examined of the proband
  - ❖ 11 members carry the allele
- ❖ Knowing these could allow the identification of at-risk individuals



Hereditary tree (Splawski, 2002)

# THE GENETIC LINK

- ❖ Acquired LQTS shares many features with congenital
  - ❖ Genetic factors may determine susceptibility
- ❖ Three main genes: KCNQ1, KCNH2, and SCN5A
  - ❖ Overall, ten associated
- ❖ Quinidine study
  - ❖ LQTS occurs in individuals who are genetically predisposed, but requires an additional stressor
- ❖ Genetic re-sequencing
  - ❖ In 31 subjects, 20 carried missense variants across a set of 79 genes
  - ❖ Further, 23% carry previously identified cLQTS genes
  - ❖ Findings suggest overlap between cLQTS and aLQTS may be greater than previously reported



## FUTURE PROSPECTS

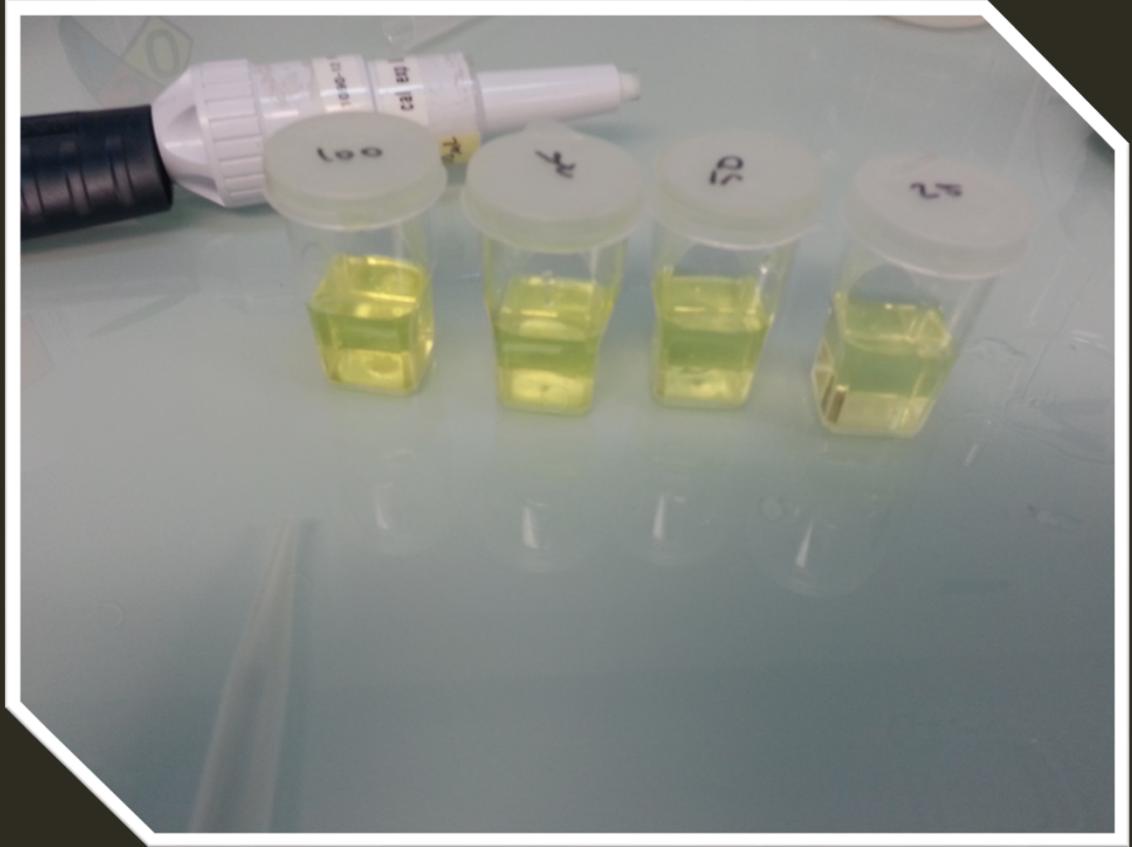
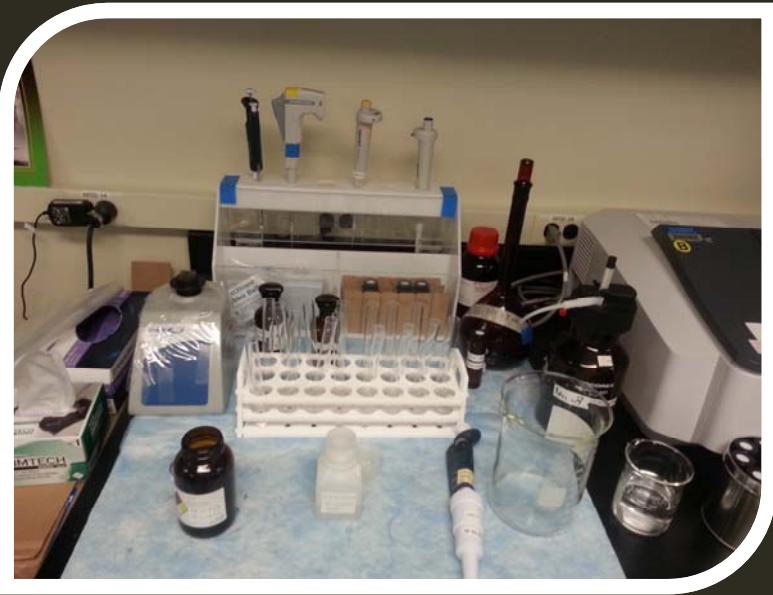
# WHERE DO WE GO?

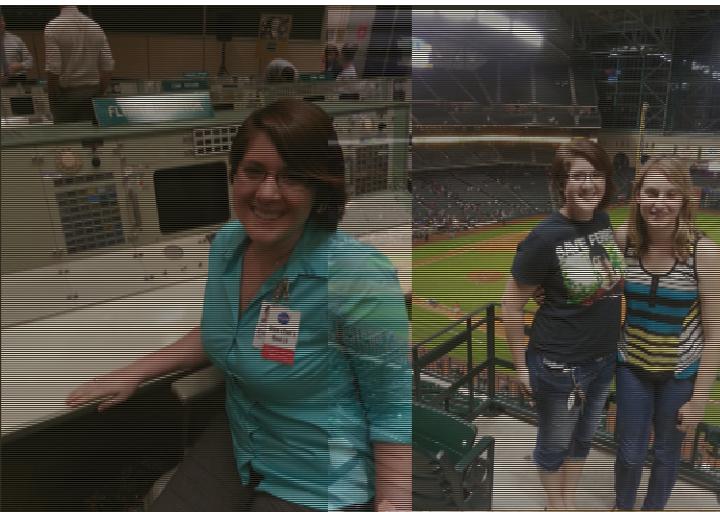
- ❖ With the proper knowledge, many of these cases are *preventable*
- ❖ Genetic screening
  - ❖ Genotyping costs need to fall
  - ❖ Genotype- based pharmacotherapy
  - ❖ More significantly robust genomic markers necessary
- ❖ A perfectly healthy individual can be a gene carrier for a lethal syndrome

**Table 1.** Drugs That May Cause Torsade de Pointes.\*

<b>Drugs commonly involved</b>
Disopyramide
Dofetilide
Ibutilide
Procainamide
Quinidine
Sotalol
Bepredil
<b>Other drugs†</b>
Amiodarone
Arsenic trioxide
Cisapride
Calcium-channel blockers: lidoflazine (not marketed in the United States)
Antiinfective agents: clarithromycin, erythromycin, halofantrine, pentamidine, sparfloxacin
Antiemetic agents: domperidone, droperidol
Antipsychotic agents: chlorpromazine, haloperidol, mesoridazine, thioridazine, pimozide
Methadone

## OTHER PROJECTS





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